

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

This month's meeting will be at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center. Mike, WB6TMH, will set out the fox for all of us to find. Bring your handheld radios, plus any fox hunting gear you might have. Remember we did a couple of club projects for fox hunting, one was the antenna made with tape measure stock and the other was an attenuator. We will start the hunt at 7:30 and then do the meeting later.

Alan, Dave, Sanford and I just got back from HRO. We looked at radios to replace the club's ICOM 718. In the running is the ICOM 7200 and the Yaesu 450D. The group seemed to favor the 450, but we can discuss the options at the meeting.

Don't forget that the September meeting is our annual picnic at Ken's place. Time and details to follow.

If you get this newsletter in time, we will be at Sonoma Skypark Sunday the 13th for the Young Eagles program. All are invited to operate and help in the set up and tear down.

W5LTP is scheduled for net control for Sept.

Congratulations to San, N7PIB, for working ST0R, South Sudan, the newest DXCC entity. Count me in as one of the many who did not.

73's all and see you at the meeting.

Jim, K6UUW



Braving the Elements for N6P

Members of VOMARC once again activated Pt. Reyes lighthouse as part of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society sponsored weekend.

On Saturday, Ken, N6KN, Gordon, KJ6PDD, Dave, KD6FIL and Jim, K6UUW set up the station. Thanks to San, N7PIB for the use of his hex beam that was used for 20m SSB. The other station used the club's Windom for 40m SSB and digital modes.

San, N7PIB, and Alan, K6KLL, arrived later to operate.

Conditions were not good, so contacts were limited. Some think that we were in some kind of RF dead zone.

On Sunday, Dave and I held forth, making most of the QSO's using PSK-31.

The weather on Sunday was one of the coldest I have ever seen there, with winds up to 30 mph. It was definitely a challenge for the two of us to take down the hex beam mast.

Thanks to Ed, W1EJ, and Desmond, KJ6DPZ, for coming out to help. Unfortunately, we had decided to leave early and had everything down when they arrived.

We managed to make 65 QSO's, Dave took the prize with the most contacts, 26 using PSK-31.

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

Meeting Minutes for July 19

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable President, Jim Hill, K6UUW at 7:35 PM on July 19, 2011.

Introductions were made. There were 13 members in attendance. Members in attendance were, K6KLL, N7PIB, WB6TMH, W1EJ, KG6QNT, WD6BOR, KJ6DPZ, K6XLT, KJ6PDD, KA2QQO, K6UUW, N6KM and KD6FIL.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes, as published in the newsletter, were approved without corrections.

Vice President: No news.

Secretary: The Vets building has been reserved for Hamfest on April 28, 2012. It requires a \$145 deposit and the City needs to be contacted to get the free day from the City of Sonoma.

Treasurer: There is \$3897 in the bank. The Radio Officer had \$90 from sales of the surplus equipment and there were several checks written at the meeting.

Radio Officer: WB6TMH dropped off the surplus material from Sutro Tower at K6UUW's house. (Thanks Judy). If you need something let Jim know. Mike said that we need to look at our Field Day antenna set up. If we run our antennas in a line, side by side (end to end), we will have much less interaction between the stations.

ACS: ACS got a hand me down computer from the City of Sonoma. It is a Dell running XP Pro. The priority is to get 2 meter packet running and then an RMS packet station going. We have been instructed by the City to only put up the HF antenna when there is an emergency. They do not want it up all the time.

Please check in to the Monday night net. Next Monday (the 25th) there is an ACS Unit Leaders Meeting.

Website: We need to take off the ham class that was planned for 2010.

Old Business

N6KM has the VOMARC and ACS nets for August.

K6ITE has been in touch and is doing well.

VOMARC members did a demonstration of ham radio at the Sonoma Skypark for the Young Eagles event (the second Sunday of every month). It is a great opportunity for new hams to operate with someone there to answer questions. The next time is August 14th.

The September meeting will be a BBQ at N6KM's house on September 21.

New Radio Discussion: Last month we discussed the possibility of getting a better radio for the club. The Icom 718 is a very basic radio and it would be nice to have a better radio with filters and a good receiver for events. The question raised was, what will the club do with 2 HF radios? After much discussion, it was decided to sell the 718 and take the proceeds and some club funds to purchase a radio in the \$1000 price range. The 2 radios that appear to fit in this category are the Yaesu FT450D and the Icom 7200. A motion was made and seconded to sell the Icom 718 first (after the N6P event) and use the proceeds to purchase a new radio in the \$1000 price range. The club will review the FT450D and the IC 7200 and determine which one fits the club best. The motion was approved by the members.

The N6P operation at Point Reyes Lighthouse is scheduled for August 6 and 7. Ken has submitted the application to the Park, but is waiting for the liability insurance certificate to complete the application.

New Business

Shannon, the manager at the vets building is retiring. There is a Retirement Party on August 5 from 5 to 8 PM. He always liked working with VOMARC at the Hamfest and has invited the club members to the party. A motion was made

and seconded to get a box of chocolates at a gift. It was approved by the members.

A motion was made and seconded to get a box of chocolates for Darcy. She has been very helpful to the club for the use of the PD Training Room and other PD matters. It was approved by the members.

The Sonoma PD Training Room is not available on Wednesdays. It was discussed about changing the meeting date to Tuesday. It was decided to have the next meeting, in August, at SDC on Wednesday, August 17. The September meeting will be a BBQ at N6KM's house. It will then be decided if we need to change the meeting day.

Where does the club want to do Field Day next year? This will be a discussion item at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

The presentation for the meeting was Automatic Packet Reports Station, APRS, with a demonstration station and rover assistance by KF6QZP. Check out the picture in <http://www.eham.net> of Craig's station. Type in KF6QZP in the call sign look up.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

LATEST SOLAR STORM

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)) is keeping an eye on a set of solar storms and explosions that could disrupt satellite, telecommunications and electric equipment here on Earth in the next few days. While activity had reportedly returned to somewhat normal levels when solar winds calmed the morning of Monday, August 8, another explosion at 0805 UTC on Tuesday, August 9 was three times larger than the [February 15 flare](#), which, until now, was the most significant flare of Solar Cycle 24.

Electric and magnetic interference from solar storms blasting electrically charged particles into the Earth's magnetic field can cause major problems on Earth. When a space weather storm is on the way, satellite operators can switch into standby mode and temporarily forgo

communication between ground control and spacecraft in orbit to prevent the garbling of messages. Airlines can reroute planes that normally take fuel-saving polar routes. Along those routes, pilots depend on HF radio communications that are vulnerable to disruptions by space weather. This impact has already occurred in 2011: In February and June, airlines reported loss of HF communication near the Arctic, due to space weather. But pilots and commercial aircraft are not the only ones at risk: NOAA cautions that many systems humans use every day are vulnerable to changes in space weather, including GPS applications in mobile phones and in cars, power grids and military satellites.

People in 1859 didn't have that advantage when a solar eruption caused a giant aurora visible as far south as the Caribbean Islands and essentially charged the air on Earth with electricity, taking out telegraph offices across the globe. According to NOAA, some telegraph operators received electric shocks and papers within offices caught fire. The interference even caused telegraph equipment to continue distributing signals once the equipment had been turned off. A [2008 report by the National Research Council](#) predicted that a storm of similar magnitude today could cause \$1 to \$2 trillion in damage, globally. -- *Thanks to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Space Weather Prediction Center and the Solar Dynamics Observatory for some information (ARRL newsletter)*

**2011 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH		
APRIL	MARTY	KI6RTP
MAY		
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2011 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ED	WIEJ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JOAN	W6WXU
APRIL	DAVE	KG6FIL
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR
DECEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH

**THE VOMARC WIRELESS
VOLUME 15 EDITION 8**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Ed Jacobson W1EJ – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of
each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma
Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire
Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local
(7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30
P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350
repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on
the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station
is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of
each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant,
18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at
09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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Sonoma, CA 95476

**THE NEXT MEETING IS WED, AUGUST 17, 2011 at McDougal Hall on the campus of the
Developmental Center at Eldridge at 7:30 PM
SEE YOU THERE.**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2011 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.